GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2237
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2017
Development and Protection of Children
Gopalakrishnan Shri R.;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the miserable condition of children who have been sufferers of malnutrition, child marriage and school dropouts at the elementary level of education in the country and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government has formulated/implemented schemes/programmes for their development, protection and welfare;
(c) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated/released and utilized thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme and States/UT-wise;
(d) whether the rural children are less benefited through these schemes in comparison to urban children, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
(e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to protect the interest of children, particularly rural children and to improve their condition?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ)

(a) As per the recent report of National Family Health Survey (NFHS - IV) − conducted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2015-16, 35.7% children under 5 years of age are underweight and 38.4% are stunted indicating a reduction from the previous NFHS −III conducted in 2005-06, which reported 42.5% children under 5 years of age as underweight and 48% stunted.

The comparison of data from recent NFHS - IV in 2015-16 and NFHS - III in 2005-06 shows that the prevalence of child marriage has declined from 2005-06 to 2015-16 from 47.4 to 26.8 per cent, for women aged 20-24 and reduced from 32.3 to 20.3 per cent, for men aged 25-29.

The total school drop-out rate, for the year 2014-15 at Primary and Upper-Primary level, for the Government schools are 5.19 and 11.72 respectively.

(b) & (c): The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing several schemes and programs like Anganwadi Services under the Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, Scheme for Adolescent girls and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana as direct targeted interventions to address the problem of malnutrition in the country. The other schemes being implemented by MWCD for development, protection & welfare of children are Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) to create a safe and secure environment for overall development of children in need of care and protection, Beti Bacho Beti Padhao (BBBP) to improve the Child Sex Ratio and the girl children literacy.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development is implementing Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for universalisation of elementary education with including universal access and retention, bridging of gender and social category gaps in elementary education, and achieving significant enhancement in learning levels of children. The Mid Day Meal Scheme is an ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme which covers all school children studying in Class I-VIII of Government, Government-Aided schools and Special Training Centers including Madarsas and Maqtabs under SSA. Therefore, SSA addresses two of the pressing problems for majority of children in India, viz. Hunger and education. The MHRD is also implementing Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) for setting up of residential schools at upper primary level for girls belonging predominantly to the SC, ST, OBC and minority communities.

The details of funds allocated/released and utilized for the above mentioned schemes, State/UT-wise are at Annexure-I to Annexure-VIII. The information in respect of other Schemes of the Ministry is available in the Annual Reports of the respective years of the Ministry that are available in the Library of Lok Sabha. The details are also available in the public domain i.e. on the Ministry's website viz. ww.wcd.nic.in.

(d) & (e): No Madam. The Government has been taking different measures to provide the protection and development of children. The schemes/programmes have the target to reach each and every child of the country, so the benefits to the children are always addressed equally to the urban as well as rural area. The other steps being taken by the Ministry of Women and Children Development to protect the interest of children include the launch of Khoya paya portal for missing children, Childline for rescuing and assisting children in distress conditions, POCSO e-Box for making complaint through internet. The National Plan of Action for Children framed by this Ministry gives due attention to the inter-relatedness of deprivations and needs, and proposes measures to address each of them, while ensuring that all children from all strata develop to their full potential in a holistic manner. Further, the Ministry of WCD has framed Special Operating Procedures (SOPs) for implementation with the help of Railways for rescue and rehabilitation of runaway, abandoned, kidnapped, trafficked children via railways.

****